

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MRS. EILEEN HIGGINS
MEEGAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable Mrs. Eileen (nee Higgins) Meegan on the occasion of her 95th birthday, Tuesday, July 1st, 2014. The daughter of proud Irish South Buffalo residents, Eileen is the last surviving sibling of five children.

In 1939, Eileen fell in love with and married a fellow native of South Buffalo, Ray Meegan. Eileen has always been the consummate caregiver. She had the difficult role of wife to a soldier and police officer. Ray served the people of the United States in the First Cavalry during World War II, and the citizens of the City of Buffalo as a Buffalo Police Officer; in all of this, Eileen was by his side. Economically, many people at the time struggled. Mrs. Meegan held her family together and thrived.

The couple was together for 39 years, until Ray's death. They raised four happy and successful children—Celine, Daniel, Sean, and Dorothy Delores (Dee)—all of whom have remained important members of the Western New York community. Their sons Dan and Sean have even followed in their father's footsteps, serving in the Buffalo Police force.

At age 94, Eileen is in great health and continues to have a very strong mind. She has many special talents. Mrs. Meegan created and sewed her own wedding gown from scratch. She still enjoys cultivating a beautiful garden, and loves baking and cooking for her family. I am inspired by the resilience and continued spirit of this great woman—a true example of a loving wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to speak on the behalf of this momentous occasion in the life of a proud Western New Yorker, Mrs. Eileen Meegan. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Mrs. Meegan, and wishing her many more years of good health and full life experiences.

HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE
MICHAEL ALSUP

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the law enforcement community from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Chief of Police Michael Alsup at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

Chief Alsup has faithfully served the public for over 42 years. Currently, he works as Chief of Police at Harper College, where he

has spent the past 14 years ensuring the safety and improving the lives of students, teachers, administrators, and parents alike. While Chief Alsup is set to retire at the end of the month, his legacy of service will live on at Harper's thriving campus.

Mr. Alsup's tenure began as a Deputy Sheriff and Detective for Kendall County in 1972. He has since then served as the Chief of Police of the Sandwich Police Department and as Lieutenant at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. After leaving the College of Dupage, he began working for Harper College, where he serves as both the Chief of Police and a member of the College's Adjunct Faculty in the Criminal Justice Program in addition to serving as the College's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Chief Alsup can proudly conclude a distinguished career having made an impact on the lives of thousands of students. I know I join his family, colleagues, students and friends in wishing him much success in this next chapter.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in commemorating Chief Alsup and his many years of service.

IN HONOR OF JIM KIRACOFE UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Kiracofe on the occasion of his retirement as the District Program Administrator for the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jim can be very proud of his service to the people of Central Ohio. His steady commitment to his duties and the well-being of the residents of Licking County inspires everyone around him. The current state of the district stands as a significant affirmation of his role as a guardian of our vital resources. For consistent and outstanding achievement in his management practices and conservation philosophy the people of the district express their gratitude. Such recognition honors him and reflects well on our entire community.

I have enjoyed working with Jim over the last fourteen years and consider his leadership to have been an asset to our community. His advice, professional opinion and effectiveness in achieving success provided invaluable assistance to me and my staff on many occasions. I have relied on his guidance more than once, and he has always provided me with his wisdom.

His leadership and administrative abilities will be sorely missed, and his expertise and experience will be very difficult to replace. However, Licking County will reap the benefits of his stewardship of the Soil and Conservation District for many years into the future.

Therefore, his friends and colleagues wish to recognize him and his achievements by

holding a ceremony in his honor at the Agriculture Service Center in Newark, Ohio, and I am very pleased to wish him well and much success as he embarks on many new challenges.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VOTING
RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, and urge the full House to vote on this legislation without delay. Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as Americans, and any attempts to limit this right on a discriminatory basis must be struck down.

The constitutional right to vote existed for nearly a century, but millions of Americans were still routinely denied the right to vote based on the color of their skin. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act and our country made incredible strides to eliminate voter suppression and discrimination.

Discrimination at the polls is still a fact of life in many parts of our country. Congress recognized this when it passed the most recent reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006 by a unanimous vote in the Senate and a 390–33 margin in the House. Despite this overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and a voluminous record detailing the ongoing need for this legislation, one year ago this week, the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wisely stated in her dissent of the Court's decision that to strike down the Voting Rights Act "when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes [to election laws] is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you're not getting wet." With efforts across the country to restrict the ability of individuals to register and vote, it's clear that we still need the "umbrella" protection that the Voting Rights Act has provided for nearly 50 years.

The Voting Rights Amendment Act is a bipartisan measure that will restore the critical voting protections that were struck down by the Supreme Court in *Shelby*. This bill will ensure that states and localities that have a recent history of voting rights violations will be subject to the same strong oversight that has been so successful since 1965.

On the day he signed the Voting Rights Act, President Lyndon Johnson stated: "Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield." Congress has a similar opportunity to ensure that the all-important protections of the Voting Rights Act remain in place. Let's join together and ensure that this "triumph for freedom" is not lost forever.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITOO SOCIETY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has been dedicated to improving central Illinois for 100 years. The Itoo Society is the oldest Lebanese-American organization in the United States and one of the oldest heritage societies in Illinois. Named after a small village in northern Lebanon, the Itoo Society was formed in 1914 by a group of Lebanese immigrants who came together to support their members through financial and emotional hardships. Since then, it has developed into an active community group that Peoria, Illinois is proud to claim.

Peorians know the Itoo Society to be a family oriented organization that honors its members' heritage and culture. The Society has long been dedicated to charitable works that benefit the community members in Peoria as well as villagers in Itoo, Lebanon. Many of their festivals illustrate their dedication to commendable causes, including Peoria's oldest food festival, which honors those who have served in our military. I think my colleagues and I can learn a valuable lesson from the Itoo Society as its members are known for producing results through a team-oriented approach to their many projects.

In addition to serving its members, the Itoo Society opens its doors to charitable organizations and small businesses. By providing the community with a meeting place for business purposes and public fundraising events, the Society contributes to the success of other community institutions. This function is another way the Society brings together friends and neighbors who share similar problems, values, and ideas.

An impressive list of Peorians can claim Itoo roots, including former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, former City Councilman and now Chairman of the Society, Leonard Unes, and Peoria County Circuit Judge Steve Kouri.

I'd like to thank Corrie Ricca and Carl Williams, the Ladies' and Men's Branch Presidents, respectively, as well as Chairman Leonard Unes and the rest of the Itoo Society for their continuing service to the greater Peoria community and its devoted Lebanese members. On behalf of the constituents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, I commend the exemplary record of service the Itoo Society has contributed. I am honored today to recognize their 100 years of effort. May they have many more to come.

238 YEARS AGO THIS DAY IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's 238th birthday and the

brave men and women of The Armed Forces and their families, who've paid and continue to pay the great price of Freedom and Independence for us all. And on this Fourth of July surrounded by your loved ones, say prayer and give thanks to them all. I submit this poem penned in their honor, and America's 238th birthday by Albert Carey Caswell.

238 AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

238 years ago this day . . .
As the birth of this Nation so made its way

Declaring Independence as had they . . .
Shouting out across the world on that day!
With a shot heard around the world to say!
That for the greater good so willing to pay!
The greatest treasure,
That Last Full Measure had all of they!
To Live Free Or Die on that day!
238 years ago this day!
And since then,
throughout the coming years . . .
The price of Freedom,
has been bought and paid by all of these so dear!

As one truth!
One constant!
Has so appeared!
To weigh from year to year!
Are all of these brave hearts,
who have given and gave so all without fear!
And all of those families who have so lived in tears . . .

Whose loved ones now lie in such dark quiet graves so dear . . .
From the beaches of Normandy, to the jungles of Nam,
to An bar Province they've so fought and died for us all so clear . . .

As their courage,
all in the darkest of all nights has so persevered!
With their most precious lives they gave!
And all of their strong arms and legs!
And beautiful eyes upon their face!
As generation after generation,
these magnificent's the price of Freedom have paid!

"with the bombs bursting in air"
"with the rockets red glare"
"gave proof through the night that our flag was still"
"O . . . say can you see" while we all live so free?

This Independence Day!
And remember that somewhere far away,
there are heroes who for all of you will die this day!

And that in hospitals and towns all across this here USA!

There are fine Patriots of Peace,
who must rebuild their lives for the price of Freedom they paid!

So for all of them a prayer so say,
and carry them deep down in your hearts this day . . .

On this Independence Day,
on this America's 238th birthday!
Independence!

IN RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plymouth's four fallen soldiers who died during the Vietnam War, and to recognize the Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony being held next week.

During the Vietnam War, Plymouth lost four of its own citizens who answered the call of duty. These selfless individuals will be memorialized by family, friends, and neighbors in their hometown at Plymouth's Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony on July 3, 2014. Today, I would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting the names of the fallen:

Staff Sergeant Frederick T. Garside, U.S. Air Force—killed in action in Laos

Specialist Five Robert B. Hedge, U.S. Army—killed in action in Bien Hoa

Lance Corporal Wayne Moore, U.S. Army—killed in action in Quang Tri

HM3 Paul Rezendes, U.S. Navy—killed in action in Quang Tri

These courageous, distinguished men embodied the best ideals of our country and dedicated their lives to its security. I know I speak for many when I say that the memory of these four men will live on as an inspiration to us all and will serve as a reminder of what it means to serve one's country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize the outstanding sacrifice that these veterans made for their country. I ask that my colleagues join me in this remembrance, and in thanking all of our service members deployed across the globe.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN for organizing this important special order to highlight LGBT Pride Month. Thank you for your leadership as a Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and really on so many other issues affecting our underserved communities.

Let me just say how proud I am to be a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. Our Caucus is stronger than ever and is really beating the drum for equality, ending discrimination and violence, and promoting the health and well-being for LGBT people here in the U.S. and around the world.

It makes me very proud to be here today during Pride Month as we commemorate the anniversary of last year's landmark Supreme Court decisions that struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and brought marriage equality back to my home state of California.

These decisions were strong and decisive steps forward in the march towards full equality for all.

Following those decisions, I had the privilege of officiating weddings for same-sex couples at Oakland City Hall—and let me tell you, they reflected the diversity of my district, the diversity of this country, and the diversity of the LGBT community.

Across the nation, some 2.8 million African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islanders identify as LGBT.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law has produced studies that provide us with critical data and analysis of these LGBT communities and their unique features, challenges, and needs.

The full reports can be found at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/>.

One of the most striking disparities as we know for LGBT people of color is in HIV/AIDS rates. In 2010, African American gay and bisexual men between ages 13 and 24 accounted for more than twice as many new infections as their white or Latino peers.

These numbers show clearly that as we close out the month of June with our celebration of Pride Month, we must not lose sight of the hard work that remains to be done, in this country and around the world. Discrimination, unemployment, and even physical violence continue to be the daily reality for far too many LGBT people and it needs to stop.

Congress needs to act. We must pass ENDA, SNDA, my bill, the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, and other critical pieces of legislation that create real protections for LGBT people and full equality under the law.

I close by reiterating how proud I am to represent a district with a strong and diverse LGBT community and join my LGBT Equality Caucus colleagues in staying the course and fighting for what's right.

CONGRATULATING MRS. LUCETIA MANWARING FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring as she embarks upon 20 years of service as a congressional staff member. As a Senior Constituent Services Representative in my office, Mrs. Manwaring has established herself as a distinguished professional with a demonstrated record of achievement.

Lucetia holds a unique blend of experiences having also served in the U.S. Navy from 1989–1993. During this time, she served on the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Nuclear Repair Division; Served honorably in U.S. Desert Storm Campaign; and was a member of the U.S. Ready Reserve from 1993–2000. In addition, she has received several awards, including the Navy Wide Command Award, the National Defense Service Medal for Desert Storm, and a Naval Citation.

Lucetia received her Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University, and her Bachelor of Business Administration from Davenport University. She was a member of the Dean's List upon completing both degrees.

Since 1994, Mrs. Manwaring has displayed leadership and commitment, engaging with thousands of constituents throughout the State of Michigan. Her tenure began as a staff member for my uncle, retired U.S. Congressman Dale Kildee. She met Dale Kildee while serving in the Navy, and began her career as a staff member shortly thereafter. Upon his retirement, I was grateful to have her join my staff as well. I am grateful to be represented by such dedicated employees who work hard to make our community and nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring for her unwavering commitment and extend my heartfelt thanks and apprecia-

tion to her for her years of service to our great country.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC GATEWAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Arc Gateway. For more than six decades, The Arc Gateway and its dedicated staff have served those in Northwest Florida with developmental disabilities, providing them with increased opportunities and numerous first-class facilities to learn, work, play, and reach their full potential.

Like so many great organizations in this country, The Arc Gateway started out as a grassroots movement to address an unmet community need. Pearl Nelson—whose son, Chris, has Down Syndrome—sought resources to help her son and family, but found that no such organization existed in Northwest Florida. So, she placed an advertisement in the paper to find parents of children with special needs and form a support group. Thus, The Arc Gateway was born. Together, these parents drafted a constitution, opened a one-room school house, and became members of the state and national Arc.

Over the years, The Arc Gateway saw the changing needs of the local community and responded with a number of new programs to meet a range of important priorities. From this environment, the Pollak Activity Center and Pollak Rehabilitation Workshop were created to give adults with developmental disabilities places to continue to learn and grow. The Arc Gateway also realized the necessity of early intervention for children and, in 1974, began the Infant Stimulation Program. Three years later, the Pearl Nelson Center expanded to become the Pearl Nelson Preschool for children ages two through five. Another critical need that arose in the community was residential support programs, and The Arc Gateway, once again, stepped up to meet these needs and established the Women's Residential Training Center.

Today, The Arc Gateway has grown from its humble beginnings to serve nearly 1,000 children and adults. They also provide an extremely impressive array of services to the community, including: the Pearl Nelson Child Development Center, which provides early intervention and pediatric services; the Pollak Training Center, where adults can participate in education classes, computer courses, and art instruction, in addition to job training; community based employment opportunities and services that connect people with local job options where they can succeed and enrich their lives; the Senior Adult Program at Bayview Senior Center, where senior citizens with developmental disabilities can access health, social, and leisure activities; as well as supported living and in-home support services to help individuals function in their own homes, and group homes that provide a great environment for support and companionship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the tremendous success of The Arc Gateway over its 60-year history. Thanks to the tireless efforts of

its staff, volunteers, and parents, The Arc Gateway has grown from a small support group to an irreplaceable community staple. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to meet unaddressed needs. My wife Vicki and I congratulate The Arc Gateway on 60 incredibly successful years and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the Northwest Florida community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING HUGH RALSTON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Hugh J. Ralston, a remarkable visionary and steadfast leader whose commitment to the success of his community and the growth of philanthropy are immeasurable.

With over a decade of service as the Ventura County Community Foundation's (VCCF) President and Chief Executive Officer, Hugh Ralston oversaw the foundation increase its assets by one million dollars. This growth in resources included the purchase of the VCCF nonprofit center, the expansion of irrevocable planned donations and philanthropic contributions throughout the community, and a tenfold increase in its annual scholarship support that have benefitted hundreds of Ventura County students. With an annual distribution amount of \$1.3 million, VCCF plays an incredible supportive role for our region's students and nonprofit organizations.

It is powerhouse foundations like the Ventura County Community Foundation that empower the greatest efforts for change and benefits that spread all across our community and nation. The work that VCCF has done, with Hugh Ralston at the helm, has been duly recognized as being in compliance with national standards, the highest form of peer review for U.S. Community Foundations and the only form of accreditation within the U.S. Philanthropic community.

In the past decade, Hugh has secured partnerships with prominent local organizations which support veterans, farmworkers, social justice advocates, medical students, professionals, and many other communal groups. During his time as the head of the VCCF, Hugh established the annual Community Leaders Awards and the biennial President's Awards which create networks and recognition for Ventura County leaders who do countless work with their nonprofits.

Community leaders like Hugh exemplify Ventura County's unsurpassed leadership. Although Hugh will be stepping down from his position as President and CEO of Ventura County Community Foundation, his legacy at VCCF and his immense impact on the community will continue to inspire the future of nonprofits and local philanthropy.

Hugh Ralston has been an amazing force in our region. The efforts that he has made for students, non-profit organizations, and the working community have ensured a remarkable investment in the future and deserve an innumerable level of gratitude.

I graciously thank Hugh for his unwavering commitment and dedication for the past 11

years as the President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. It has been my honor to collaborate and work with Hugh and there is no doubt in my mind that his influence will extend to many generations of community engagement and philanthropy.

HONORING MR. NEAL HARRELL
FOR HIS WORK AS AN INTER-
NATIONAL FOUNDATION VOLUN-
TEER IN HONDURAS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Neal Harrell for his tremendous volunteer efforts with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation. It is an honor to have such an upstanding citizen in my district.

Recently, Mr. Harrell, who is an employee of Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, traveled to Honduras as an International Foundation volunteer to help employees at the Roatan Electric Cooperative implement their newly-acquired smart grid system. This trip was part of the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas project. Mr. Harrell's volunteer efforts supported the Alliance's goal to share experience and provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Mr. Harrell's efforts will help the Smart Grid Alliance of the Americas project improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and most importantly improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America. I ask that you join me in recognizing Neal Harrell for his excellence in volunteer work for electric cooperatives across the nation. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOSEMITE
NATIONAL PARK'S 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor one of our nation's greatest landmarks, Yosemite National Park. I am proud to be joined by: Rep. LAMALFA, Rep. HUFFMAN, Rep. GARAMENDI, Rep. THOMPSON, Rep. MATSUI, Rep. BERA, Rep. COOK, Rep. MCNERNEY, Rep. DENHAM, Rep. GEORGE MILLER, Rep. SPEIER, Rep. SWALWELL, Rep. COSTA, Rep. HONDA, Rep. ESHOO, Rep. LOFGREN, Rep. FARR, Rep. VALADAO, Rep. NUNES, Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. CAPPS, Rep. BROWNLEY, Rep. CHU, Rep. SCHIFF, Rep. CÁRDENAS, Rep. SHERMAN, Rep. GARY MILLER, Rep. NAPOLITANO, Rep. WAXMAN, Rep. BECERRA, Rep. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Rep. RUIZ, Rep. BASS, Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Rep. ROYCE, Rep. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Rep. TAKANO, Rep. CALVERT, Rep. HAHN, Rep. CAMPBELL, Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Rep. LOWENTHAL, Rep. ROHR-

ABACHER, Rep. ISSA, Rep. HUNTER, Rep. VARGAS, Rep. PETERS, and Rep. DAVIS.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Yosemite Grant Act, creating, on June 30, 1864, the earliest parts of what would grow into the beautiful national park that we have today.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln took the unprecedented step of setting aside this scenic tract of wilderness in central California for public use and recreation. The creation of this first public park, preserved for the enjoyment of the public, served as the catalyst for the creation of a vast system of lands that provide recreational opportunities across the country, including more than 400 national parks.

Yosemite's development into a national park made it one of the nation's first travel destinations. Countless millions of Americans have visited the park over the last 150 years to enjoy the scenic beauty of nature. More than just idle viewing, Yosemite's heritage includes a dedication to camping and hiking that allows park visitors to immerse themselves in one of the American people's greatest treasures. Providing these various recreational activities, that so greatly enhance the visitor experience, is the lifeblood of the surrounding foothill communities.

Today, Yosemite National Park receives over 4 million annual visitors. They come from around the world to see the beauty and majesty of our nation. This includes Yosemite's two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Tuolumne and the Merced; over 800 miles of trails, including the renowned Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail; the awe-inspiring scenery created by the area's rich volcanic and glacial history; and the groves of Giant Sequoia trees.

The park includes parts of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and contains several of the highest peaks in North America. Some of the world's most spectacular and unique geologic formations exist in Yosemite National Park, including renowned formations such as Half Dome, Sentinel Dome, El Capitan, Glacier Point and the Royal Arches. Where the rivers wind through these impressive geological formations, there are some of the world's most majestic waterfalls: Yosemite Falls, Snow Creek Falls, Sentinel Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Nevada Fall, and Waterwheel Falls, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite National Park is truly one of our nation's greatest treasures and we ask all the Members of this body to join us in celebrating its past and committing to preserving its future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOME-
COMING OF THE CHARLES W.
MORGAN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the return of the *Charles W. Morgan* whaling ship to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The *Morgan* is the last American whaling ship in a fleet that had at one time numbered over 2,700 vessels. Built and launched in 1841, she is the oldest American commercial

ship that is still afloat. Known as a "lucky ship", the *Morgan* successfully navigated dangerous storms, Arctic ice, and the roundings of Cape Horn during her 80-year whaling career. The ship embarked on 37 voyages between 1841 and 1921, covering every corner of the globe.

The *Morgan* was designated a National Historic Landmark by order of the Secretary of the Interior in 1966, and she was also a recipient of the coveted World Ship Trust Award. Since her arrival at Mystic Seaport, more than 20 million visitors have walked her decks. Next week will be a homecoming for the *Morgan* as she returns to New Bedford, Massachusetts, the site of her initial launch on July 21, 1841 from the yard of Jethro and Zachariah.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the *Charles W. Morgan* on this joyous occasion of her homecoming to New Bedford. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating her long and storied career.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE
IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, efforts to reform our immigration system in the House have been blocked. It's been a year since our counterparts in the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive legislation, but the House Republican leadership has rejected the Senate bill without any attempt to shape a House response.

Meanwhile, 11 million undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and defend our country continue to be deported; potentially 135,000 immigrants a year may be wrongfully detained and exploited according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts with detention centers; and countless others frequently endure harassment and abuse in the workplace because they are not legally recognized.

When did we veer so dangerously far off course? America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the first settlers, to the Great Wave, to the fight for legalization today, we're all either immigrants ourselves or direct descendants of them.

In fact, twenty-six percent of residents in my congressional district were born in a foreign country, compared to 13 percent nationwide.

As a first-generation American, I know the human side of this issue. My father traveled thousands of miles to this land, huddled by his mother's side, fleeing the religious persecution of Christians. He studied, learned, worked and excelled. He married, loved and raised his three children. He flew the American flag in front of his home every day, sang the praises of our country, and said prayers of thanksgiving daily for the blessings of America.

The opportunity my family was given in America is always with me, and I'm committed to seeing that everyone has a share in that same opportunity.

As a policymaker, I recognize that comprehensive immigration reform will also provide immense economic benefits to our country.

It's estimated that the Senate-passed comprehensive immigration reform bill could reduce the deficit by more than \$800 billion in the next 20 years, according to a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis.

It's also estimated that wages would ultimately rise and our GDP would increase by over three percent in the next decade. In my congressional district, we would stand to gain over 17,000 jobs by 2023, according to an American Action Network analysis.

We're already making progress. The Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is allowing hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who were brought by their parents to the United States as small children, to gain temporary legal status, including work authorization and protection from deportation. This is the only country these young people know and to which they have pledged their allegiance. They deserve to be recognized.

The economic case is clear. Human lives are at stake. The founding principles of our country are on trial. Now is the time to act on comprehensive reform.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 4870, the FY2015 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

I commend the House Appropriations Committee's continued support for our servicemembers and our national defense. However, I have serious concerns with a number of misguided funding provisions in this year's DoD Appropriations bill. We have to budget based on reality, instead of writing a blank check and holding onto as "much of the stuff and the training as possible" and hoping that "some miracle happens and we get money next year that we don't have now," as Chairman MCKEON put it last month. As a result of this line of thinking, this legislation avoids making many tough choices.

As was the case with last month's Defense Authorization bill, H.R. 4870 provides billions of dollars in funding that the Department of Defense neither requested nor needs. This includes funding for additional EA-18G aircraft, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles, and unrequested upgrades to the M-1 Abrams tank. It also blocks the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C-130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

I also strongly object to sections 8107, 8108, 8139, and 9015 of the bill, which continue funding restrictions on the construction or modification of detention facilities in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees. I was also disappointed that two amendments were adopted on the House floor which

would bar the use of funds to transfer Guantanamo detainees to Yemen and other foreign countries. As the President made clear in his State of the Union Address earlier this year, we cannot wait any longer to lift the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and close down this facility once-and-for-all.

This bill also provides \$79 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations even though we have not received a detailed OCO budget request. There is no justification for this amount. The bill holds back 85% of the funding from being obligated until the Pentagon submits a detailed spending plan. But this is no safeguard because the Pentagon still determines virtually all of the details of how the funding is spent. Congress has no opportunity to provide input through regular order into how much we should spend for war operations and on what. We should take notice that \$79 billion is larger than every other appropriations bill except for two—Defense and Labor, HHS, Education. We need to provide at least some minimum level of oversight and control over such a large sum of money.

Despite my overall opposition to this legislation, I was happy that a bipartisan amendment offered by Rep. LOFGREN was adopted that would limit funding for many backdoor programs within Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. This was a provision that was initially in the USA Freedom Act before being stripped in its final passage and would prevent the NSA from being able to search government databases for foreign communications content of American citizens without a warrant. The passage of this amendment will strengthen the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. Today's bill also continues to address the problem of sexual assault in the military and fully funds the President's request for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Programs.

I also want to make clear my views with respect to the amendments relating to the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force against the al Qaeda elements responsible for the attacks of 9/11/2001 and the 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq. The President has announced his intention to end combat operations in Afghanistan at the end of this year, and to keep a residual force in Afghanistan for an additional year subject to a Status of Forces Agreement. There is also the question of how the existing use of force authorization applies to military action outside of Afghanistan, such as in Yemen. Given the changing circumstances, it makes sense to end it or to revise the current authorization and adapt it to the current situation.

As for the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq, it should be terminated. We have withdrawn our troops from Iraq, and we should no longer provide the Executive Branch with a blank check for future military action there. That does not mean that the President could not seek Congressional authorization for future military action in Iraq or, if the conditions apply, exercise his constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief. However, I supported the amendment to prohibit the use of funds in this bill for combat operations in Iraq because I don't think there is a sound case for putting American troops in combat and, in the absence of such a limitation, there is no check on the unlimited use of force in Iraq given the current 2002 authorization to use force there.

Finally, I want to say a word about the Gosar Amendment. This amendment was a

blatant effort to exploit fear and misunderstanding. There is no intention to provide Iran, Syria, Hamas, or ISIS with any military assistance. I would strongly oppose any such move. However, the United States, with the support of the State of Israel, has at times provided different forms of assistance to the Palestinian Authority to enhance security and fight terrorism. By including the Palestinian Authority in the list of entities that should be prohibited from receiving assistance, the amendment was an obvious example of what is known around here as a "gotya" amendment. It is time to stop playing those political games.

It is my hope that many of my objections to the Defense Appropriations bill will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer my strong support for the Autism CARES Act of 2014, a bill that continues the much-needed research and educational activities related to autism. I strongly support our nation's autistic community; this bill helps to promote and facilitate the good work being done related to autism by federal entities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. Autism is a disorder that has a tremendous effect on the lives of the people with it and their families, including challenges with education, communication, and employment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies autism as one of our nation's leading public health crises. An autism-related diagnosis is more common today than the diagnosis of pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. More research on this complex neurobiological disorder is still needed because we do not fully understand the cause or course of this disorder.

The Autism CARES Act of 2014 will facilitate autism research by reauthorizing \$190 million annually through 2019. In addition, it focuses attention on the important issue of transitioning autistic youth from school to adulthood. I have heard from constituents with autism about the need to improve the transition of services to consider life after high school graduation to ensure that students are supported as they move to work or higher education. I am well aware of the benefits of services and research dedicated to autism. I am proud that Chicago is home to the Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research run by the Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago. The Center provides care and advances research on autism. It provides multiple services—research, training, early intervention, school-to-work transition training, and independent living training—all under one roof. It is an amazing resource for Chicago, Illinois, and

the nation. I strongly support this program and any federal efforts to support and expand these services. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Autism CARES Act of 2014.

**LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO
FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS
ACT OF 2014**

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, to move the process forward and support U.S. energy independence and security, although I remain strongly opposed to one provision included in this bill.

This concerning provision was drawn from an amendment to H.R. 1965, the Federal Lands, Jobs, and Energy Security Act, which I opposed, and would call for the Secretary of the Interior to develop plans to allow for the construction of new power lines "across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need." Some may consider this to be noncontroversial, but I have fought the impact of similar language for a number of years. I am privileged to represent Virginia's "hallowed grounds," where so many important events and battles in American history took place, and I simply cannot support efforts to construct new power lines through our area—particularly power lines that would ship energy to other parts of the country. That's why I opposed PATH and why I opposed TrAIL. Cedar Creek and Bell Grove National Historic Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park are just a few areas in our region that could be impacted by this provision.

While my vote reflects my support for the other elements in this energy security bill, I will not be able to support any conferenced final bill if it contains this troubling provision.

**LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO
FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS
ACT OF 2014**

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, in the absence of fresh ideas for the American people, the Republican majority is turning back to old ones and repackaging legislation that has already passed the House for another vote. It may have a nice name, but this bill contains the same unnecessary, irresponsible giveaways to Big Oil at the expense of American taxpayers.

Today's bill would dramatically expand drilling on public lands and offshore, limiting public input into those lease sales and prioritizing drilling above all other uses, including hunting, fishing, and recreation. It undermines the existing procedures that ensure safe and responsible operations, effectively giving oil companies a blank check without appropriate safeguards.

This bill is unnecessary. Oil production in the United States is already at a 25-year high and net oil imports are at a 29-year low. We are already the world's top natural gas producer. This bill will not reduce energy prices or increase energy security. We should not give away our taxpayer-owned natural resources to already-profitable big oil companies. I urge a no vote.

**HONORING THE TOWN OF
NEWPORT, MAINE**

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Newport, Maine, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Located on the western boundary of Penobscot County, Newport is a town steeped in the history of Maine and known best for the bounty of its farms and fields. First known as East Pond Plantation, Newport was settled in 1800 and incorporated as the 208th town in the District of Maine on June 14, 1814. Like many Maine towns, it grew from a small farming village into a prospering mill town by harnessing the power of the east branch of the Sebasticook River, and aided by the extension of the Maine Central Railroad.

On Monday, the people of Newport will begin a week-long celebration of the bicentennial of their town, filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled those first residents who first petitioned to have their community recognized. The residents of Newport embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine and can take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 200 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Newport in Congress and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the Town celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Newport and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

**H.R. 4902, THE MIDDLE CLASS
CHANCE ACT**

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight H.R. 4902, the Middle Class CHANCE Act, which I was proud to introduce last week.

As a Pell Grant recipient myself, I know that every dollar counts when you're trying to put yourself through college.

In our changing economy, today's college student is not necessarily full-time, living on campus, or between the ages of 18 and 22. Today's student is struggling to finish in four years, and today's student is averaging nearly \$30,000 in student loan debt.

That is why I am proud to have introduced the Middle Class CHANCE Act which will increase access to higher education for all our students by restoring the strength and length of the Pell Grant.

We argue that sensible solutions to our economic difficulties are essential to prevent this burden from passing on to our future generations. But let's take a look around; our future generations have already inherited the burden.

We cannot rebuild our economy when we do so at the expense of our future generations and the American dream of completing a post-secondary education.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Middle Class CHANCE Act and make college more affordable and accessible for today's student.

**CONGRATULATING KAREN L.
PALLANSCH**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen L. Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, on her election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Alexandria Renew is an independent government agency providing wastewater treatment services to the City of Alexandria and portions of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Beyond her wealth of environmental and engineering experience, I commend Ms. Pallansch for embracing a collaborative approach to watershed-based solutions that have garnered broad support among the public, business, elected officials, regulators and policymakers.

Ms. Pallansch is also a staunch and effective advocate for investing in our nation's aging and often deteriorating water infrastructure—investments that convey both environmental and economic benefits and help communities across our great nation to grow and thrive. Ms. Pallansch believes—as I do—that great communities need and deserve great water infrastructure and great quality water.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the former Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)—the precursor to Alexandria Renew—Karen presided over the completion of the Authority's

awarding-winning Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility that led the way in meeting the gold standard for removing nitrogen—one of the culprits behind the declining health of the Chesapeake Bay. Always seeking to be a good neighbor, ASA put much of the facility underground so as not to detract from the City's beauty and bring an Old Town look to the business of water protection.

When more stringent federal rules came along, Ms. Pallansch, working closely with her dedicated Board and staff, embarked on a massive State-of-the-Art Nitrogen Upgrade Program (SANUP) from which emerged the reimagining of what a wastewater treatment facility could be.

More than having cutting-edge technology, the facility she manages offers community-friendly features, including a regulation soccer field open to the public on top of an 18 million gallon treatment system. Alexandria Renew is moving down a bold new path to greater sustainability, helping to build greener, more sustainable communities, and creating in her agency "a utility of the future."

To reflect this broader enterprise, on Earth Day 2012, Ms. Pallansch announced that the Alexandria Sanitation Authority would be rebranded as Alexandria Renew Enterprises—the community's resource recovery center. The promise and synergy of this change are already being seen in a successful public-developer partnership that will create a vibrant new neighborhood from a dusty industrial area that was once an unregulated landfill for the City.

Ms. Pallansch has a long and distinguished career in the water reclamation field. She began as a staff engineer, rising to several senior positions before accepting position of CEO where she is now responsible for a \$40 million operating budget and a \$220 million capital improvement plan.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Karen Pallansch on her election as President of NACWA. As with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, I am sure she will lead the organization down a road marked by innovation, collaboration, progress and success. I wish her and NACWA the very best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DALE MORRIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director for American/American Eagle Airlines. Mr. Morris served a total of 27 years at American Airlines, including his early years as a protégé to former Chairman, President and CEO of American Airlines, Gerard J. Arpey. As he enters retirement, it is fitting that this body honors Mr. Morris and his illustrious career, given his personal and professional successes.

Mr. Morris was raised in Fresno, California, where he studied Journalism and Public Relations at Fresno State University. He maintained a firm connection to his roots as past president and current special advisor to the Fresno State Track & Field Commission. Among his various accolades, he is a member

of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Beta 311 Chapter.

In his role at American Airlines, Mr. Morris had the ability to navigate various legislative and regulatory obstacles to effectively advocate for American Airlines, thereby keeping American citizens and American skies safe. Over several decades, he has worked extensively with members of Congress, the White House, and the Department of State, always with the utmost integrity and trustworthiness.

Mr. Speaker, with Mr. Morris' leadership, officials at all levels of government made critical policy decisions that have improved the Nation's airports and many Americans' traveling experiences. I recognize Mr. Morris as a great American who has devoted his career to assisting those in public service and congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE TRACEY L. PINSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and outstanding servant of humankind, the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson, Director for the Office of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army, and the highest-ranking female civilian in the Army acquisition career field. Ms. Pinson has excelled at this position since her first day as director in May 1995. She will be retiring on Monday, June 30, 2014.

A Washington, D.C. native, Ms. Pinson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Howard University in 1978 and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1982. Her career began on Capitol Hill on the House Committee on Small Business under Chairman Parren Mitchell. Rep. Mitchell, of Maryland's Seventh Congressional District, was known as the "godfather" of minority business expansion and development efforts.

In 1986, Ms. Pinson was named as Assistant to the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 1995, Ms. Pinson was appointed the Director of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. She manages the largest small business program in the federal government in terms of dollars. Under her leadership, the Army has awarded over \$300 billion in contracts to small businesses.

Ms. Pinson manages the Army Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions Program and ensures these institutions are afforded an opportunity to participate in Army-funded programs. Under her leadership, over \$100 billion in Army awards have gone to HBCUs/MIs. She also headed an initiative to hire wounded warriors in her office. With their help, she has been able to steer over \$50 billion to veteran-owned businesses. She has also worked to secure contract awards for women-owned businesses, companies located in areas of economic distress, and small businesses in disaster relief efforts.

Throughout her career, Ms. Pinson has received numerous awards and accolades, including the Department of the Army Award—Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service in 1998; the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 2002 and for Distinguished Executive in 2009; and the Department of the Army Award for Meritorious Civilian Service in 2014.

Ms. Pinson's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in government, Ms. Pinson has served on a number of boards and commissions, most notably on the Board of Directors of the African American Federal Executive Association.

Ms. Pinson has dedicated her career to advocating for disadvantaged small business owners. Because of her efforts, thousands of these small business owners have received contract awards to stimulate their businesses, create jobs and contribute to the economy. Indeed, Ms. Pinson has been a champion for small businesses across the nation and I am so grateful for the role she has played in upholding the American dream for thousands of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson upon the occasion of her retirement from a stellar career of 32 years of service in the federal government and nearly 20 years as Director for the Office of Small Business Programs for the Secretary of the Army.

TRIBUTE TO DAN WALTERS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of the Inland Empire are exceptional. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and devoted community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Dan Walters is one of these individuals. Today I would like to recognize Dan Walters, who will be retiring from the position of District Director of The National Exchange Club after fifteen years of continuous volunteer service to the California and Nevada districts.

The National Exchange Club holds three core values dear to their mission of service: a commitment to family, a commitment to the community, and a commitment to country. Dan has embodied these three attributes during his fifteen years of service to his organization, and as a dynamic and effective leader, he has encouraged many others to do so as well.

Some of Dan's primary work with the National Exchange Club has involved working to prevent child abuse through education and fundraising activities nationwide. Among other important roles, The National Exchange Club recognizes those who uphold the ideals and institutions of their community; including law enforcement and fire department officers, school teachers, and students of the month, to name a few. Dan and his organization have also championed the installation of Freedom

Shrines in our junior and senior high schools nationwide. These Shrines serve to inspire our nation's youth and are just another example of Dan's, and The National Exchange Club's, commitment to strengthening America's civic society and promoting American patriotism.

Dan's tireless efforts have not gone by unnoticed. In 2010, Dan was awarded the high honor of the National Exchange Club's Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his tenure with the National Exchange Club, Dan also received additional awards and letters of commendation from the National Exchange Club's Directors and District Executive Directors for his dedication to making our communities better places to live.

Dan's passion and dedication to the Exchange Club's efforts have been, and will continue to be, an inspiration throughout the community. He has been the heart and soul of many projects within our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many in our region are grateful for his service and I congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 339 and 340, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of Pioneer Middle School in Yorkshire, New York. The school was recently designated a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Pioneer Middle School was one of only 118 schools from across the country to receive this outstanding distinction.

The Forum uses rigorous criteria of requirements and achievements to select the recipients of this highly esteemed honor. Academic performance, developmental responsiveness, and social equity are among the factors used to grade each school. Schools that receive this prestigious distinction must display a strong "sense of purpose" and maintain a "trajectory toward excellence." Pioneer Middle School continually meets and exceeds each of these requirements and it shows in the students and their mentors.

Earning this award speaks to the dedication of the administration and faculty to providing students with the highest level of academic excellence. I would like to specifically recognize the principal of Pioneer Middle School, Melissa Prorok, for going above and beyond in facilitating a positive academic experience for each student.

Once again, I commend Pioneer Middle School on this notable achievement. I am con-

fident that the excellence displayed by the teachers and administrators will continue to develop strong academic foundations for their students, paving the way for them to achieve success throughout their academic careers. I am proud of the positive impact this school is making on students and its community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. GRICE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher A. Grice, a true American hero. His achievements are shining examples of dedication and loyalty to the state of Kentucky, and his country.

Colonel Grice was originally commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) as a Distinguished Military Graduate after graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University. Colonel Grice continued his education by later earning a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Webster University.

His military career as a commissioned officer began as the Battalion Chemical Officer of the 1st Battalion in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he also served as a Support Platoon Leader. Colonel Grice led the Blue Grass Chemical Activity's workforce through the Rocket Separation Operation. The operation was deemed successful due to Colonel Grice's commitment to safety and stakeholder involvement. Perhaps Colonel Grice's greatest attribute is his leadership abilities. After facing a government shutdown and a moratorium on hiring during his command, Colonel Grice's ability to maintain a high morale while meeting all regulatory requirements is truly admirable.

Several military decorations Colonel Grice has received throughout his impressive career including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. These awards are only a small testament to Colonel Grice's service to our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Colonel Christopher A. Grice on his life of superior excellence, service and loyalty. His service to the state of Kentucky is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing what Colonel Grice accomplishes in the future. I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to Colonel Grice for all that he has done for the United States military, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 356, I was away from the House floor and intended to vote "aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,545,861,055,228.61. We've added \$6,918,984,006,315.53 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHARLES "CHUCK" LIONEL FRANKLIN, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader, caring physician, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Lionel Franklin, Jr. Dr. Franklin departed to his eternal reward on Monday, June 2, 2014. A funeral service was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of mourners were present to pay tribute to Dr. Franklin's honorable life and legacy.

Dr. Franklin was born on April 5, 1946, and was raised in Washington, D.C. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Franklin exemplified the meaning of being a servant leader. He began at Howard University, where he never missed an opportunity to engage in causes that promoted justice and equality. Even as an alumnus, his commitment to the university remained one of his greatest causes. He advocated the D.C. Metro bus system to change the name of the bus stop for Howard's campus from "LeDroit Park" to "Howard University" to recognize the university's status in the same way that other prominent colleges were recognized. Also, as a result of his advocacy on behalf of his beloved alma mater and black college football, the Washington media began publishing the scores and highlights of black college sports in mainstream sports news stories. Dr. Franklin shared Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In 1976, Dr. Franklin expanded his repertoire of servant leadership by opening his Family Medicine practice in Silver Spring, Maryland, with medical privileges at area hospitals. Dr. Franklin practiced medicine for 35 years, focusing on patient advocacy. He worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Franklin is his steadfast commitment to his family and his faith. I became fond of Dr. Franklin through his wife, the former Alexis Margaret Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, and a lifelong friend of mine. As big brother to Dolores and Estelle, dad to

Sharath, Michelle and young Chuck, grandfather to Brian and David, and inspiration to extended family and countless friends, Chuck spared no effort in sharing himself to the fullest. Moreover, as husband, there was no limit to his love for Alexis! But above all, Dr. Franklin loved his Savior. Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he was often called "the praying doctor" because he not only gave his patients medical hope but he also prayed with them for spiritual help and healing.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Dr. Franklin went far in life because his loving personality brought warmth to all whom he encountered. A man of integrity and high moral values, his understanding, compassion and kindness made him a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Dr. Charles "Chuck" Franklin, Jr. for his dedication to serving others, his passion for promoting equality among individuals from different walks of life, and his deep commitment to his family and his faith. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Franklin's family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING CHAD CLARK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Chad Clark of Floresville, Texas—a well-known and respected law enforcement officer.

Mr. Clark's story was truly one of hard work and dedication, having climbed his way from the position of nonpaid reserve officer all the way to lieutenant. The nearly 22 years of service Chad Clark gave to the Floresville Police Department is the second-longest stint in the department's history.

In 1989, while Mr. Clark was working in a local convenience store, he struck up a friendship with a Floresville PD officer. This new friendship sparked Chad's interest in a career in law enforcement and he soon enrolled in police academy in San Antonio. After working in the Poteet Police Department for two years, Chad Clark returned to Floresville to begin his more than 20 year term of service in the Floresville Police Department.

Five years into his career, he was promoted to corporal. In 2001, while working as the day-shift supervisor, Mr. Clark was promoted to detective, where he investigated a wide variety of crimes.

In 2012, Chad Clark reached the level of lieutenant within the Floresville Police Department. That same year, he was elected as the Wilson County Precinct 2 constable. He served admirably in both capacities and will be missed dearly by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Described by those he worked with, Mr. Clark was a kind-hearted, generous man who came into work with a positive outlook that was infectious.

Aside from his exemplary career in law enforcement, Chad Clark had served on the boards for the Wilson County Friends of the Library as well as the Floresville Independent School District. Mr. Clark is survived by his two daughters, 21-year-old Kayla and 17-year-old Marah.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Chad Clark. His hard work and positive attitude have truly impacted many lives and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMSTOCK'S MAGAZINE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Comstock's magazine as the publication celebrates its 25th anniversary. For a quarter century, this magazine has shared timely and significant insights into the Sacramento region's business climate with thousands of readers. As Comstock's staff, business partners and readers gather to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Comstock's magazine and its special place in Sacramento's business community.

Comstock's magazine is the brainchild of my friend and businesswoman, Winnie Comstock. I have had the pleasure of knowing Winnie for many years; we first met while folding clothes at the annual Junior League rummage sale. She has always displayed a true passion for telling Sacramento's story and has succeeded beyond belief with Comstock's magazine.

The first issue of Comstock's was published in July of 1989 and the magazine has thrived ever since. The magazine has created a forum for coverage of ideas that celebrate the region, while never shying away from addressing what the region must do to succeed. On issues from water to transportation, and banking to education, each month Comstock's leaves over 85,000 readers with a better understanding of the topics that define the Sacramento region.

Comstock's magazine reporting has earned multiple "Maggie Awards," which includes twice being named the Best Business Consumer Magazine in the Western United States by the Western Publishers Association, as well as numerous national awards from the American Association of Business Publication Editors.

Since its founding in 1989, the world has dramatically changed, and Comstock's has changed with it. The magazine is now a true multi-platform media company, with a stellar website and a number of social media outlets, all in addition to their print edition. It also was one of the first magazines in the country to develop a digital edition and iPad app.

Finally, Comstock's magazine has never forgotten that it does not just report on the Sacramento region, but that they are also a key part of it. They offer complimentary advertising

and coverage to a number of nonprofits and charities, while also publishing an annual "Capital Region Cares" edition that spotlights the region's nonprofit community. Winnie and her colleagues have also supported a number of economic development efforts and have worked closely with the area's Chambers of Commerce and economic development organizations, such as SACTO, SARTA, and Valley Vision.

Mr. Speaker, as the staff, advertisers and readers of Comstock's come together to celebrate the magazine's 25th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their fine reporting and work that has helped define the Sacramento Region. I am confident that the magazine will continue to thrive in the years to come.

HONORING VIRGINIA INGRAM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who is an inspiration to many Brooklynites and New Yorkers. This Saturday, Virginia Ingram will turn 100 years old, an impressive feat that deserves our recognition and celebration.

Virginia Ingram was born on June 27, 1914 in Lynchburg, VA. The fifth child born to Charles and Alda Wilson, Virginia was raised on a large farm with her siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Growing up in a relatively rural area during the early 20th century, she's been known to tell stories related to her love of the outdoors. As a young woman, Mrs. Ingram would often accompany her father on a horse and buggy to chop wood for the fire.

Like so many others of her generation, Mrs. Ingram eventually migrated from the south to a northern city—New York. Coming to New York in 1930, she began a career working various seamstress jobs. Notably, during World War II, she helped make Mae West Jackets, the floatation devices that saved the lives of American fighter pilots.

After the war, in 1946, she met and married the late Lacey C. Ingram. Virginia and Lacey moved to the Red Hook projects at 811 Hicks Street in 1951. Together, they had two children and two stepdaughters. Today, she enjoys seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren who have further enriched her life.

Eventually, Mrs. Ingram moved to 80 Dwight Street, where she has been a Red Hook resident for over 60 years. It was there that she met the late Reverend and Mrs. McBride, founders of New Brown Memorial Baptist Church. A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Ingram was one of the original parishioners at the church. In the early days, Sunday Service was held in Rev. McBride's apartment. Sunday School was held in various church members' apartments. Mrs. Ingram has loving memories of those years and everyone who helped build the church.

In 1979, Mrs. Ingram went to Bible School, later becoming a Missionary. With the support and blessing of the late Rev. Truitte, she remained dedicated to this calling. She was a missionary for many years, working alongside many dynamic women before serving under Reverend Reid as a Deaconess.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ingram's story is an impressive one—and the local community of Red Hook is a richer place because of her many kind contributions. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her on the advent of her 100th birthday and wishing her many blessings.

HIV TESTING DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to National HIV Testing Day, which takes place on June 27. This day serves as an important opportunity to urge everyone to get tested. I would like to thank all of the advocates, care coordinators, and healthcare providers, both in my community and around the country, for their tireless work in serving the HIV-positive community and raising awareness of HIV issues more generally.

There are over one million people of all ages, ethnicities, and sexual orientations in the United States living with the HIV virus, and South Florida has one of the highest HIV infection rates in the country. Sadly, nearly one in six HIV-positive individuals do not know that they are infected, which means that they could be unknowingly spreading the virus. We simply must close this gap so that we may improve health outcomes for those living with HIV and protect against future infections.

HIV does not discriminate—it impacts people old and young, gay and straight, and of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. To highlight this critical issue, I will be hosting a call to action in my district. I hope that everyone will take this opportunity to get tested for HIV and to ask their friends and family to do the same.

Again I would like to thank the advocates, care coordinators and healthcare providers in South Florida and around the country for their tireless work in preventing, detecting, and treating HIV. I wish them the best as they pursue this daunting but important endeavor.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. NEVIN, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Edward J. Nevin, Jr., on the great occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ed Nevin was born on August 26, 1914, at 15th and Harrison in the South of Market District of San Francisco. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in his beloved City of Saint Francis, and went on to graduate from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

A passion for civic duty and a commitment to his community led Ed to a 34-year career in the San Francisco Police Department, where he served with distinction in several important positions. He was the Chief of the Chinatown Detail, Director of Special Services

(Vice Squad), Commander of the San Francisco Housing Authority Police, and Chief of San Francisco International Airport Police.

While Ed takes enormous pride in protecting the people of San Francisco, he has always considered his greatest accomplishment to be his family. He was married to Mazie McDermott Nevin for 70 years until her passing in 2009. Together they had seven children: Virginia, Edward III, Michael, Katherine, James, Margaret Mary, and Eileen; 22 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren.

Ed and Mazie were deeply rooted in their Catholic faith, a guiding light that called them into selfless service to their community. They were longtime leaders in support of Catholic married couples and services for youth, and Ed was a recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Lifelong residents of the Bay Area, Ed and Mazie lived in San Francisco, Glen Ellen, San Ramon, and at The Magnolia in Millbrae.

On August 26, 2014, Ed's family and friends will honor him on the blessed occasion of his 100th birthday with a celebration at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Edward J. Nevin on his 100th birthday. He is a faith-filled family man who is revered by his colleagues, admired by the people he served, and beloved by his family. I am privileged to have known the Nevin family for many years and shared a beautiful friendship with their late son, Mike, a devoted and beloved public servant, and their daughter Margie and her husband, Patrick Johnston. Ed Nevin stands as a paragon of integrity and decency. He has strengthened his community and his country throughout a life filled with faith and raised an extraordinary family that continues to live the Nevin values. Our nation has been immensely bettered by Ed Nevin in countless ways over an entire American century, and we pay tribute to this great and good man who exemplifies the very best of America.

5TH BIRTHDAY AND BEYOND

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commemorate the United States' role in preventing the death of millions of children under the age of five across the world. In a country where talk of a child's fifth birthday elicits happy memories of time spent with family and friends, we too often forget that in regions across the globe, many children never make it to their fifth birthday. Thanks to the support and generosity of the American people, U.S. aid programs have helped cut the number of child deaths, under the age of five, in half since 1990.

The devastating and deadly effects of diseases like pneumonia, measles and malaria have been largely curbed across the globe with the support of Americans. These monumental advances are allowing millions more children to live the healthy, happy childhood that all kids deserve. It is important we recognize these advancements and honor the dedication and work of those that have made them

possible. We must also continue to support efforts to improve children's lives around the world and redouble our efforts and commitment to children's health. It is my sincere hope the progress achieved by 5th Birthday and Beyond continues, and we can make this a world where no child unnecessarily suffers from, or ultimately succumbs to, a preventable or treatable illness.

HONORING VETERAN CURTIS ALLRED

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Curtis Allred of Missouri's 8th Congressional District for his achievement, and commitment to serving our country.

Curtis enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating High School at the age of 17 in order to serve his country in Iraq. After boot camp and SOI training he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, which is a battalion-level infantry unit composed of infantry Marines and support personnel. In February of 2004 his battalion was deployed in Iraq and was a part of the initial invasion of Fallujah.

After his tour in Iraq, Curtis helped train new Marines for combat until he retired in 2007. The battalion which Curtis was a part of was the most deployed battalion in the Iraq War.

At a young age Curtis Allred showed an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives. I wish him all the joys in life he so rightfully has earned.

HONORING MR. CHARLES HENRY "CHUCK" NOLL, OF SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor the memory of Mr. Charles Henry "Chuck" Noll of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Mr. Noll passed away on June, 13, 2014 at the age of 82. Chuck Noll was born in Cleveland on January 5, 1932, but he will be remembered best in Pittsburgh: the city that he transformed through his legendary coaching of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

A Pro Football Hall of Famer, Mr. Noll led the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl championships in twenty-three seasons. He holds the record of being the only coach to win four Super Bowl trophies, a feat the team accomplished between 1975 and 1980.

This achievement did not come without perseverance. Mr. Noll began his football career as a linebacker and guard for the Cleveland Browns, where he played until he retired at twenty-seven. He then dedicated his life to coaching, eventually becoming the then youngest head coach in NFL history when the Steelers hired him on January 27, 1969. Steelers President Art Rooney II said, "He set a

new standard for the Steelers that still is the foundation of what we do and who we are. From the players to the coaches to the front office down to the ball boys, he taught us all what it took to be a winner."

At just thirty-seven years old, Mr. Noll turned the struggling franchise into an unbeatable powerhouse, leading the team to their first playoff appearance in thirty-nine years in 1972. Two years later, Mr. Noll took the team even further, winning the team's first Super Bowl in a classic against the Minnesota Vikings.

The "City of Champions" would not be what it is today without Mr. Noll. Former Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann said, "He built a foundation . . . This entire organization will be a part of his legacy."

Mr. Noll's passion and love of coaching and contributions will always be remembered by the Steelers, by Western Pennsylvanians, and by all members of "Steelers Nation."

Chuck Noll was so much more than a coach. He was a licensed pilot and sailor, played musical instruments, spoke French, and was well versed in cooking, gardening, and home repairs. Team members would often try to find topics that Mr. Noll did not know about, almost always to no avail. Mr. Noll once said that he would have been a history teacher if not a football coach, but by making the football field his classroom, he in a sense fulfilled both these careers.

Perhaps what Mr. Noll was best at was bringing people together and being a source of encouragement. He focused on building a sense of family among the team; he taught players the importance of sacrifice, humility, and winning both on and off the field. He never ceased to remind players that their actions today would affect tomorrow, a mentality that made him a role model for everyone.

Bishop David Zubik said, "Let's learn this lesson from coach. That we should all recognize what we can be, recognize what we are capable of doing and encourage other people to be their best. That's greatness. And that's why today we thank God for the coach."

We are pleased to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest football coaches, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

SGT. TAHMOORESSI

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, who is currently in jail in Mexico. I urge the government of Mexico to bring his case to trial and do all that they can to ensure he comes home safely and quickly.

Mr. Tahmooressi has nobly served our country during war. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan including winning a combat field promotion to Sergeant in Helmand Province. He was honorably discharged in 2012, but remains on reserve duty until 2016. According to his family, he suffers from severe PTSD and had traveled from our hometown of Weston to California to seek treatment from a VA facility there. But he is currently in trouble and needs our assistance.

Andrew was arrested on April 1st of this year in Tijuana, Mexico after crossing the border with several firearms in his automobile as well as ammunition for these weapons. He was then charged with possessing firearms and ammunition in violation of Mexican law. Andrew, according to his signed statement, was traveling to visit a friend near the Mexican border on the night of April 1 when he made a wrong turn and accidentally crossed the border into Mexico. It is also our understanding that the weapons in his possession at that time were purchased legally in the United States.

After being held for two days in temporary holding, Andrew was transferred to La Mesa Penitentiary. Since his incarceration, Andrew has continued to suffer from PTSD.

Yesterday I spoke to Andrew's mother Jill. As a mother, my heart goes out to her, her family and Andrew during this scary and uncertain time. As a fellow mother, her neighbor and her Representative, I committed to Jill that I will continue to do all that I can to bring Andrew home.

I have raised Andrew and his situation personally with Vice President JOE BIDEN and with Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina Mora. I commend the State Department for their efforts to ensure that Andrew is being treated humanely by Mexican authorities, and for their efforts in helping secure an attorney for Andrew. My staff and I have been in regular contact with the State Department since Andrew's arrest.

I call on Mexican government officials, specifically the Attorney General of Mexico to ensure that Andrew's case moves as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to work collaboratively to find productive ways to bring Andrew home. There is absolutely no reason this important endeavor should be a partisan exercise.

HONORING EVELYN GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Evelyn Gross who died on June 18th in Plano, Texas at the age of 92 after a long battle with lung cancer.

Evelyn Gross was the mother of Alan Gross, the subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, who has been imprisoned in Cuba for the last four and a half years for working to increase Internet access for Cuba's small Jewish community.

Evelyn Gross's last wish was to see her son before she died, but despite repeated pleas for a humanitarian furlough to visit her, the Cuban officials refused to grant Alan's request to do so.

As the end of her life approached, in a fit of desperation, Alan went on a hunger strike to protest the failure of both governments to resolve this issue and free him. At his mother's urging, Alan stopped the hunger strike after nine days.

Judy Gross, Alan's wife said that the death of Evelyn Gross was a devastating blow to Alan, who was extremely close to his mother and was already in a fragile state.

Before his arrest, Alan spoke to her twice a day by phone. We are all very worried about how he is coping with her death.

Judy Gross fears that her husband will sink deeper into depression and give up all hope of ever coming home.

She worries that the pain of not being able to see his mother before her passing could start Alan down a dangerous path of destructive behavior.

Before the death of Evelyn Gross, many of Alan's friends had already grown deeply concerned about Alan's physical and emotional well being.

Alan lives confined in a small prison cell 23 hours a day with two other inmates. Until recently, prison officials kept the lights on in the cell 24 hours a day.

Weakened by the prospect of having to serve out a 15-year prison sentence under these conditions, Alan's health and emotional state have suffered. He has lost over 100 pounds, he suffers from chronic pain, and his loss of hope and increasing despondency have caused those who love him to fear that he is at risk of losing his will to live.

When Alan turned 65 last month, he swore that it would be his last birthday in prison. He said he was determined to come home, alive or dead.

I am taking the floor today to urge the Government of Cuba to free Alan Gross and for President Obama to do everything he can to obtain his release.

I fear for what might happen if nothing is done soon to free Alan Gross.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMANDO J. MORA, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I along with Rep. LINDA T. SANCHEZ rise to honor the life of Armando J. Mora, Jr., a Santa Fe Springs City fireman who died of service related cancer on June 18th, 2014.

Mr. Mora was raised in Santa Fe Springs and was proud to serve in the Fire Department of the city he loved. Mr. Mora came from a very distinguished family who have committed their lives to public service in Santa Fe Springs. His father Armando Mora Sr. served on the City Council and was Mayor, and his brother Robert also serves in the Fire Department and is President of Local 3507 of the firefighter's union.

Armando J. Mora, Jr. began his career in the fire service of the City of West Covina and was hired by the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department on January 20, 1981. He served with distinction for 33 years as a firefighter, and was known as an extraordinary man of great character and generosity to all in our community. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Mora because he knew the danger he faced every day on the job, but would not be deterred from his duties in protecting the people of our region.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Mora's mother Alicia Mora, his loving and devoted wife Georgina Mora, his two children, Lauren and Anthony, stepson Jesse, two sisters Annie and Irene, his brother Robert, and to the extended Mora family and friends, including his brave brothers and sisters in the

Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

IN HONOR OF FORMER ALBANY
CHIEF OF POLICE WASHINGTON
LONG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, Mr. Washington Long, the first black Police Chief in the history of Albany, Georgia. Sadly, Chief Long died on Thursday, June 19, 2014. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia with interment following at Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Long was born in Marianna, Florida. He enlisted in the United States Army at an early age, before transferring to the Air Force. While stationed at Turner Air Force Base in Albany, he met then Albany Police Department Chief Laurie Pritchett. Chief Pritchett saw potential in Mr. Long and asked him to join the force if Chief Pritchett could convince the commissioners to hire black police officers. Mr. Long made up his mind to join the Police Department when he was stopped by a police officer in downtown Albany, where racial strife was profuse in the years following the Albany Movement, a part of the greater Civil Rights Movement. He believed he could be a better police officer than the one who stopped him and so in 1966, Mr. Long became one of the city's first black police officers.

In the police department, Mr. Long rose through the ranks of Corporal, Detective, Captain, Major and Assistant Chief. In 1987, Mr. Long was named Chief of the Albany Police Department, becoming the city's first black police chief. He held this post until he retired in 1994.

During his nearly thirty-year career with the Albany Police Department, Chief Long served the citizens of Albany, Georgia with devotion and distinction. Responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of the residents of Albany, Chief Long proved to be a strong and revered leader. A great number of challenges came with a position of this caliber, exacerbated by the lingering effects of segregation and racial tension. Chief Long met these challenges head-on with steadfast humility and strong moral fiber.

Chief Long was a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church for over fifty years and served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of numerous community organizations, the most notable being the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Albany—East Albany Unit. He sponsored the membership for many children over the years so that they could have a support system in the community to encourage them to realize their full potential.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we oc-

cupy here on this earth." Chief Long's life was defined by service. He paid his rent and he paid it well through his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for the people of Albany. He will truly be missed.

Chief Long is survived by his daughter, Lisa; son, Ronald; and siblings Gertrude, Coriel, Paul, William, Frederick and Mariah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to Chief Washington Long and his legacy of service to Albany, Georgia. He loved the people of Albany and he was committed to making the community safer to live in and to improving the quality of life. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN SUPPORT OF VOTING RIGHTS
AND THE VOTER RIGHTS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the right of all Americans to vote without fear of discrimination, no matter their race, color, or political beliefs.

In 1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act. The enactment of VRA fulfilled a century of work towards guaranteeing that our most fundamental right—the right to vote—would be protected for all Americans, including in states and local jurisdictions that had historically denied or disempowered minority voters.

The protections provided in VRA ensure that historically disenfranchised communities in our country are now able to freely vote. The very chamber we stand in today is a reflection of the success of VRA, seen in the election of dozens of Members of Congress who come from these very communities.

A year ago today, however, the successes of VRA became endangered when the Supreme Court ruled in a controversial 5–4 decision that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Act, which had been used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional.

As a result of the Court's opinion in *Shelby*, the right to vote for millions of Americans, including my constituents in Houston and Harris County, are now endangered. Immediately after the high court's ruling, the State of Texas announced that it would put into immediate effect a voter ID law that had been previously blocked by a federal court because the state law's restrictions target the very communities that are meant to be protected under Section 5.

Congress must act. The right to vote for all is at the very heart of our democracy.

Bipartisan legislation, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, has been introduced in this Congress that would provide a new coverage formula based on current problems in voting and directly respond to the high court's concerns.

This is not perfect legislation, but it would go a long way towards restoring the protections that my constituents had before the Court's decision.

I urge my colleagues to bring the Voting Rights Amendment Act to a floor vote and ensure that our most sacred right—the right to vote—is protected for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE POUGH
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Oak Park, Illinois, Essie Pough, as she retires from the Illinois Department of Human Services after 46 years of public service to the state of Illinois and its citizens. On behalf of the 7th District of Illinois, I congratulate and commend Mrs. Pough for almost five decades of outstanding dedication to the state.

Mrs. Pough began her career when the agency was known as the Illinois Department of Public Aid. She has worked at multiple locations for the agency, providing the customers with professional assistance at each—whether she was in the Walcott office, the Madison office, or in Humboldt Park. As an example of her commitment to the public, Mrs. Pough started taking Spanish classes after moving to her Humboldt Park office which serves a large number of Illinoisans who speak Spanish. She worked at the Humboldt Park office for 30 years.

Although small in stature, Mrs. Pough has a dynamic and impressive personality that amazes her friends, family and co-workers. I also understand that she has a fondness for high heels, even starting her work day by walking up the stairs to her second floor office every day in 4-inch heels, which no doubt helps explain her health and fitness to this day. Mrs. Pough is a caring friend and co-worker. Her propensity to routinely feed her colleagues makes me disappointed that I never had the opportunity to work with her. In addition, she regularly supported her coworkers' accomplishments with parties to recognize birthdays and promotions as well as led the annual Black History celebration.

Outside of work, Mrs. Pough is an avid bowler with an average of 133. Impressively, she has already bowled 200 twice this year alone. These scores are especially notable given her distinctive bowling stance, bowling while down on one knee. She is an active member of Living Word Christian Center where she adds her beautiful voice to the choir and shares her bowling talents with the bowling team.

In closing, I join with the friends of Essie Pough and her 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren in celebrating her retirement on April 30, 2014, after 46 years of public service. I recognize Mrs. Pough's dedication to her community and state as well as convey my deep appreciation for her service. I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mrs. Pough and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY N. TONSICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Anthony N. Tonsich, the son of Croatian immigrants and a native of San Pedro who passed away on June 19, 2014 with his loving family by his side.

Anthony always had an adventurous spirit. Whether he was sailing on his boat, Lady Bug II, or traveling around Europe, Anthony's life was constantly marked by movement. So it came as no surprise when Anthony developed a love for automobiles and spent over 45 years in the car business without ever taking a sick day over the course of his career.

Anthony will most fondly be remembered for the lasting impact that he had on his family, friends, and community. He enlisted in the Army and served as a drill instructor until 1952, helping new recruits become accustomed to military life. Yet Anthony's ability to lead by example did not end when he took off the uniform in 1952. He continued to inspire others through his generous spirit, warm personality, and extraordinary work ethic. He served as a role model for people in San Pedro, especially his eight beloved grandchildren and his three children: Anthony, Suzanne, and my dear friend Nick.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life and legacy of Anthony N. Tonsich.

THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in my district. The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) was created by the City of Alexandria under the authorization of Housing Authority Law, Chapter 1, Title 36 Code of Virginia, in 1939, for the express purpose of operating the Affordable Housing Program for low and moderate-income individuals in Alexandria. ARHA's goal is to provide citizens the ability to own a home or secure an affordable rental unit and improve the quality of life for all Alexandrians.

ARHA commenced operations in Alexandria, Virginia in 1941. They built their organization on a foundation that advocated the importance of providing safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing. They have grown into a stellar operation and are a leader in the development and management of mixed income housing in Alexandria. Home equity, housing security, and self-sufficiency are all important for Alexandrians to ensure a high quality of life. ARHA empowers its clients in these areas by providing an array of supportive services that give residents the opportunities needed to grow independently.

A healthy housing industry is important to the economic development of the City of Alexandria. It provides families with affordable

housing opportunities and the chance to build equity while strengthening the tax base, creating jobs, and opening doors for further growth and development. Their continued partnerships between financial institutions and housing developers will continue to provide needed affordable housing opportunities for residents in Alexandria.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority for their outstanding work and contribution to our community.

MICHELLE WIE WINNING HER 1ST MAJOR

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a local Hawaii girl who has stormed the world stage of golf, and made our state proud as we have watched her grow and achieve. On Sunday, Honolulu-born Michelle Wie won the U.S. Women's Open, her first major in a long career that began on the lush golf courses of Oahu.

The daughter of South Korean immigrants, Michelle started golfing at age four and by age 10 became the youngest qualifier ever at the USGA Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. In 2007, she graduated from Punahou School on Oahu.

Whether pioneering her unique putting style or showing grace and determination under intense media spotlight and pressure, Michelle has shown she is an athlete beyond her years.

Michelle, the people of Hawaii are cheering you on as you take your career to the next level, and continue to represent our state and the aloha spirit! Congratulations!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN EDWARD BARBER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize John Edward Barber. John was born to Nancy and Robert Barber on December 3, 1972 in Winter Garden, Florida. John graduated from West Orange High School in 1991 after spending a year in Germany on a Congress-Bundestag Scholarship through AFS.

John then went on to study Political Science and Women's Studies at the University of South Florida, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1995. While in college, John and Sam Singhaus teamed up to perform as their drag characters, Tweeka Louise Weed and Miss Sammy, doing shows in Orlando and Tampa.

John moved to Miami's South Beach, then to Atlanta, before moving back to Orlando to attend cosmetology school. He built a faithful following as a hair stylist, working most recently at Vamp Hair Salon in Orlando's Thornton Park neighborhood. He was voted Favorite

Local Hair Stylist in Watermark magazine's 2008 "Wave Awards".

He stayed active in politics, using his Tweeka Weed persona as a political and social commentator on radio station 106.7 FM (WXXL) during the 2008 elections. He was also a volunteer during Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's campaign and an active political fundraiser and supporter. John was also an advocate for HIV and AIDS awareness.

John was seldom without his sense of humor. He was a consummate entertainer wherever he was, whether it was talking to customers as he styled their hair or raising funds for a political candidate or charity.

John died Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, after a ten-month battle with cancer. He was just 38 years old.

John's legacy lives on in Orlando through The Barber Fund which he founded while undergoing intense cancer treatment. John touched many lives and will be remembered as someone who spent his time on Earth making our community a better and more beautiful place.

He is survived by his mother, Nancy Barber; his grandmother, Nancy Arnold; his sister, Nancy Barber; his sister and brother-in-law, Robin and Ron Branch, and their children, Ellie, Steve, and Bobby Branch; his aunt and uncle, Fran and Dan Arnold, Jr.; and his aunt, Carol Booth.

I am proud to honor the memory of John Edward Barber, during LGBT Pride Month.

CONGRATULATING VETERAN RON STOPPELMANN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate veteran Ron Stoppelmann and thank him for his service in the United States Army. Stoppelmann has shown his strength not only in the military, but also in his daily life.

Ron Stoppelmann, an artillery mechanic during the Vietnam War, was able to save countless lives when he controlled a fire that had begun after a propellant charge from an artillery round exploded and spread to an ammunition storage point. There was danger of the fire reaching other storage units which would have caused the detonation of ammunition as well as personal harm to staff at nearby facilities. At the risk of injury, he controlled the flames and prevented it from spreading further.

Due to his bravery, Stoppelmann has been recognized for several honors. Some of his achievements include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, and the Soldier's Medal for Heroism in a Non-Combat Situation.

Ron Stoppelmann has shown bravery and strength in many situations and I know those traits will continue to be with him in his future endeavors. I wish him all the best.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRADUATION OF AMERICAN STUDENTS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to the 2014 graduating class of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. They have all traveled a long way to earn Medical Doctorates in Havana, Cuba.

These dedicated doctors overcame immense hurdles to complete their medical educations. They not only had to face six years away from home, but also had to pursue their education in Spanish after attending a 12-week intensive language program. They had to complete their studies cut off from their families and uncertain about their futures due to the draconian Cuban embargo that continues to threaten this excellent program.

After a visit to Cuba in 2000, I was proud to have helped initiate the scholarship program, along with the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am also proud to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to bring access to healthcare back to those who need it most.

The 2014 graduating class includes 20 students from the United States, bringing the total of young physicians to 104 who are either completing residencies or practicing medicine in underserved areas of the United States. These students should be recognized not only for the many challenges they had to overcome, but also for their dedication to service.

The Cuban government devoted scholarships, covering tuition, dormitory room and board, and textbooks, to students from the United States who are willing to commit to serve in medically underserved communities. This expensive and humane gesture allows students, who might otherwise not have the resources to pursue medical degrees in the United States, to become doctors and to serve the uninsured and underinsured who too often fall through the cracks of our for-profit healthcare industry. It also reduces the concern that health care for all is not attainable because there are not enough doctors to meet the need.

It is my hope that what these doctors have achieved will not only bring desperately needed healthcare to the underserved, but will also serve as an example to the healthcare industry, the American people and the members of Congress, that healthcare is a basic human right, not a privilege.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute the graduates of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish and I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 44TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. TAOFI AND MASINAATO MAGALEI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear sister and her loving husband on their 44th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei were married on June 27, 1970, and were later sealed in the Laie Hawaii Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for time and all eternity.

Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei are the proud parents of four children—Michele, Taofi Jr., Kristal, and Nainoa. They are also blessed with six beautiful grandchildren—Sanaa Filiaga, Tyler Magalei, Ariana Magalei, Michele Magalei, Eternity Filiaga, and Tre Magalei—and they expect more grandchildren to come.

Mr. Taofi Magalei, Sr. is now retired after working for more than 40 years with combined service at Continental Airlines, BYU-Hawaii, and the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie. Mrs. Masinaatoa Magalei is also now retired after working 23 years as a school teacher, counselor, and Vice Principal.

As they celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary, I wish my sister and her husband endless years of wedded bliss. I thank them for their love and support for all these years, and I convey my love to them and their family on this very special occasion. I pray that the Lord continues to bless them and their family forevermore.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY JUNKER

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional Navy scientist and civil servant. Dr. Bobby Junker, a native of San Antonio, TX, died June 14, 2014 after a long illness. Dr. Junker came to the Washington, DC area in 1977 after accepting a position with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), where he remained for his entire 37 year career. At the time of his retirement in May 2014, he served as Department Head for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance for ONR.

Dr. Junker was a 1965 alum of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, as well as the University of Texas at Austin, where he received both his Master's degree (1967) and Doctorate in Chemistry (1969). Among the numerous awards Dr. Junker received over his distinguished career, he has been awarded the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award twice (1985 and 2011), the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive three times (1989, 1999 and 2008) and the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive once (2003). He was also a life member of the American Physical Society, Sigma Xi and Senior Executives Association. He is most remembered as a visionary and brilliant leader in the field of science

and technology. The Chief of Naval Research described Dr. Junker as a national treasure, both a trusted advisor and a dedicated star in the information sciences community.

More important than this distinguished service and his career honors, he was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather to his family as well as a leader, advisor and true friend to many. Dr. Junker is survived by his wife Ginnie Junker; children Evan Junker, Melissa Depew and Bryce Combs; stepchildren Daniel and Andy Katt; grandchildren Megan and Bryan Depew, Isabella Combs, and Riley and Holden Katt; and brother Eugene Junker.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Junker's family, as well as our continuing gratitude to individuals such as Dr. Junker willing to dedicate their lives to honorable service and an exceptional career devoted to defending the nation. He is a critical reminder to us all of the importance of our civil service workforce. We should never forget that while the military defends us all, it is our civil servants who work, often unseen and unrecognized, to support and defend our military.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE, A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HALL OF FAME THIRD BASEMEN BROOKS ROBINSON OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Ms. Speaker, I submit the following poem by Albert Carey Caswell.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE

On fields of green,
there is but one position seen!
Where, there's such hell to pay!
Because, third base is such the place . . .
Where only those of courage play!
That hot corner,
where on any pitch you're a goner . . .
As lasers come screaming at you every day!
Where with each and every pitch,
this could be it. "D" Day!
Because it's just the place,
where instincts and quickness and speed
come into play!
Where, those faint of heart,
do not so wish to take stay!
And it takes a special man,
to command the courage to play!
With but only micro seconds to so react in
time,
to stay intact and steal the game away!
Who said that crime does not pay?
Because in Baseball,
for stealing big bucks you will get paid!
And that's something that Brooks has done
both night and day!
ROBBING SOME,
THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND
GLOVE!
And with his glove and hi bat has done such
harm!
Proving to all,
that in Baseball crime really does pay!
For he has pulled off many more heists in
broad day light than Capone they say!
Yea, Brooks should be doing hard time . . .
for all those crimes of stealing hits so away!
For this is a story,
all about Arkansas glory . . .

But not of Presidential Glory or cheese-burgers hey!
 Because, long before there was Mr. President Clinton, "Bill". . .
 Brooks so owned that center stage!
 Brooks Robbing Some,
 The Man With The Golden HEART and GLOVE
 Who history has so made!
 Because upon these fields of green . . .
 no greater third baseman has so been seen!
 With his soft hands and cannon arm to win the day!
 As he so took command on each and every play!
 When, charging the bunt . . .
 he was always on the hunt for that put out or double play!
 With that bare hand grab,
 as was his to have all in perfection's way!
 An when all was so said and done,
 his arm was so equipped with a golden gun . . .
 Of the caliber from which he could throw lasers from!
 And Brooksy Babe could even throw out Superman, this one!
 Even impressing James Bond and making Chuck say,
 "go to war Miss Murphy" On each and every day!
 And with his reactions so all in time,
 it was but a crime the way Brooks so stole all those hits away!
 Making it look so very easy" too WAY . . . WAY" . . . WAY!"!
 And bringing them to their knee's each and everyday!
 Because no matter who the batter,
 they'd all come back to the dugout in a lather cursing his name they!
 Brooks Robinson . . . the latter!
 And this Man,
 who in The Hall of Fame now so stands . . .
 was also equipped with a bat of such power to make em pay!
 As it all so began on those fields of green,
 a catch with Mom and Dad had they . . .
 And then on that first opening day!
 As that dream to play he so made!
 As a child,
 as he so wished the while!
 To make it to The Big Leagues one day!
 With that great Brooksy smile!
 From Little Leagues to High School ball . . .
 And some college calls and wants you to play . . .
 Until, that fateful draft day . . .
 and now your out on your way!
 To The Big Leagues, To The Pro's . . .
 something that few of us will ever know!
 Until, finally then you get that one golden chance,
 to so advance on your first opening day!
 But, for most of us these dreams die hard they say!
 So surely now,
 no one can so claim no doubt!
 No greater Third Baseman has ever come our way!
 As Brooksy Babe made it to the "O's"!
 For in all of those boys of summer,
 no other man with such golden hands and glove here . . .
 and kind heart has so played!
 With all his basic instincts,
 history Brooks Robinson so made!
 Like a vacuum cleaner,
 to batters no one was any meaner stealing all of those hits away!
 And Oh that arm which did such harm,
 that would even make Superman alarmed!
 As "Aint the beer cold" as Chuck would say!
 And as a Batter he was just as Phatter . . .
 Hitting tatters and for average as he gathered everyday!
 As he was Mr MVP,
 during the season and The World Series . . .

as Brooksy Babe always took center stage!
 For Mr. Clutch,
 for Brooksy was of such a ballplayer . . .
 yea!
 As he made Earl Weaver a true believer,
 and get down on his knees here and thank God for Brooks and pray!
 Here's to you Mr. Robinson,
 and what to Baltimore you so gave!
 And Oh that dynamic duo,
 that other Robinson who so who "O",
 who were like Batman and Robin all the rage!
 And Brooks, in baseball you stood at the very top.
 as "O" miles apart from all the others . . .
 yup!
 But the greatest thing about you Brooks,
 is your heart of kindness for others would not stop!!
 For you always so find the time,
 to us all so remind of your greatest part!
 And that kindness in the game of life,
 is where it all so starts, is but surely the greatest play in any ball park!
 Yea number 5, in the game of baseball . . .
 you will forever stay alive until the end of days!
 For you were The Very Best,
 and nothing less they will say!
 As you so showed us all The Oriole Way,
 all in your time!
 "Yea Brooks like a vacuum cleaner you sucked all of those balls up for outs each day!
 And you were such a thief beyond belief in every way!
 Who but on fields of green,
 robbing some on each and every day!!
 Now here's to you Mr. Robinson,
 and what to this game of Baseball and Baltimore you so gave!
 And that's why in The Hall of Fame as The Greatest whose ever played!

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER SHAFTON T. ADAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and outstanding public servant, Officer Shafton T. Adams, of the United States Capitol Police, for his distinguished service to Congress and the United States of America. On June 30, 2014, Officer Adams will be retiring from the U.S. Capitol Police after thirty outstanding years of service.

Officer Adams, a Washington, D.C. native, attended Southeastern University and the University of the District of Columbia. He began his duty assignments as a Capitol Police Officer in 1984. Throughout his career, he received numerous honors, including a Certificate of Merit and a Life Saving Award. He has earned certifications in advanced specialized fields including Hostage Negotiations, Firearms Instructor and Armorer, Hazardous Materials Technician, CPR Instructor and Field Training Officer.

In 2004, Officer Adams began working as a Physical Security Specialist. In this capacity, he researched, maintained and educated staff on all facets of physical security and equipment. He created vulnerability assessment reports for Members of Congress and recommended risk mitigation. In doing so, he en-

sured the physical security needs of Members of Congress. His position required him to maintain a Top Secret SSBI Clearance.

The mission of the U.S. Capitol Police is to "protect the Congress, its legislative processes, Members, employees, visitors, and facilities from crime, disruption, or terrorism." Because of the selflessness and dedication of Officer Adams and the Capitol Police, Members of Congress are able to have peace of mind while fulfilling our constitutional responsibilities. We owe so much to the officers of this special force who devote their lives to protecting those who make the laws of our great nation as well as those who work in and visit the magnificent halls and grounds of our Capitol.

Officer Adams's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of character that he embodies. He is passionate, dedicated and highly efficient and adheres to the highest standards of moral values. Officer Adams regards his mission on Earth as being a provider and protector—two roles I have witnessed him perform admirably throughout his professional and personal life.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Officer Adams not only for his distinguished service, but also for his friendship and guidance. It gave me great peace of mind to know that I could call on Officer Adams, day or night, in Washington or at home in Georgia, and he would go to great lengths to assist me in whatever I needed.

Officer Adams has certainly excelled in all areas of his life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife and his family.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Officer Shafton T. Adams upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of thirty years with the United States Capitol Police.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have introduced legislation to reestablish the public holiday for George Washington's Birthday from the third Monday of February to the actual date of Washington's birth on February 22. I have long admired President Washington and have found inspiration in public service from studying his life. Few know that his first political office was representing Winchester, Virginia, in the Virginia House of Burgesses. I am proud to say Winchester is in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Earlier this month I spoke to the third grade classes at Waterford Elementary School in Loudoun County. When I brought my effort to move the holiday back to President Washington's actual birthday the children cheered. Then their teachers asked what their students could do help get the legislation passed.

I want to enter into the RECORD a resolution drafted and signed by all the students in the class that says that George Washington's Birthday should be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday in February each year. The complete resolution reads:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN WOLF'S BILL TO MAKE FEBRUARY 22 THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

We are gathered today in third grade at Waterford Elementary School, in historic Waterford within the County of Loudoun, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to affirm Congressman Wolf's proposed bill to honor George Washington, and

We have learned of Congressman Wolf's initiative to celebrate the significance of President Washington's birth to the birth of our nation, honoring his unparalleled role in American History; instilling in the American people a deeper desire to learn more about this great man:

Whereas, as General and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, Washington led the Patriots to victory in the Revolutionary War. Absent this, the United States may have never been born, and

Whereas, following his dreams of a free and democratic country, Washington refused to become a king and refused to serve more than two terms as president. He pioneered the qualities of our government that helped to establish clear roles of its leaders by establishing a system of checks and balances, and

Whereas, Washington's efforts and actions led to the design and construction of our capital city. Washington, himself, laid the cornerstone of our U.S. Capitol, and

Whereas, our first and one of the greatest presidents, was president of the Continental Congress, a key author of the Constitution, and an instrumental force in uniting the thirteen colonies, and

Whereas, Washington was the ONLY president unanimously nominated for that office by the electoral college for both his first and second terms, and

Whereas, Washington, a man of incredible vision, freed his own slaves in his will, foreshadowing an identical outcome nation-wide on September 22, 1862, and

Whereas, George Washington, the father of country, is admired and honored by all who know the significance of his contributions.

Now, therefore, be it resolved to pass H.R. 681: to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Washington's Birthday be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday of February of each year.

Be it further resolved to tell Congressman Wolf how much his inspiration, wisdom, determination, and unfailing support for honoring George Washington means to us; and how grateful we are or his service.

Respectfully Submitted: Riley E. White, Paige E. Wenham, Clay Ash, Kierstin G. Culp, Reggie Norton, Matt Chmielewski, Jackson Allgood, Aiden Akers, Kevin Beach, Ava Fahrner, Luke Jenkins, Connor Thurston, Joseph T. Ravese, Barrett Ralston, Haley Oliver, Maxwell Twyford, Ava Mumaw, Charlotte Fiorentino, Emma Vest, Lily Kelly, Cole Gormont, Claire Thurston, Ian T. Watson, Susan H. Verdin Teacher, Stephanie R. Wang, Wynn Drenning, Blake Earles, Luke Malonis, Henry E. Dinger, Cash Croft, Grace Gavilinski, Madeline Shea, Collin Price, Anthony Alfaro, Corey Schaeffer, and Evelyn B. Hale Teacher.

The third graders at Waterford Elementary aren't alone in their support of H.R. 681. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winning history author David McCullough, Washington historian Ron Chernow, historians Peter Henriques and Richard Bookhiser and scholar and history professor Gordon Wood also support the bill, as does George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. On June 2, 2014, I received the following letter from Curt Viebranz, the president of Mount Vernon:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for introducing H.R. 681 to restore the nation's

official observance of George Washington's Birthday on February 22, the actual date of his birth 282 years ago. We at Mount Vernon enthusiastically support this important legislative effort!

As you are well aware, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was created to save George Washington's home from potential ruin and maintain this priceless landmark for the good of the American people. We have worked tirelessly for more than 150 years to keep Washington's extraordinary legacy alive, and we accomplish this solely through private donations—we do not accept any government funds. Just last year, we opened the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington which offers a remarkable new platform to expand our scholarship and educational outreach for visitors both on the estate and online. We strongly believe that a true patriotic celebration of Washington's birthday would help return George Washington to a place of prominence in our national consciousness—a goal for which we have been striving for many years.

Today several states, the media, advertisers, and the general public have abandoned recognition of Washington's birthday and replaced it with a commercial "shopping holiday" that leaves American history, heroes, and patriotism by the side of the road. The holiday was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington and schools and families focused on Washington's sterling example of character and leadership.

Americans should learn from example and celebrate and appreciate our heroes. Our Founding Fathers and subsequent leaders were surely clear on this point. President John F. Kennedy stated, "History is the means by which a nation establishes its sense of identity and purpose." President Harry Truman emphasized this point as well when he said, "The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

Restoring the official celebration of Washington's birthday would be a great place to start. We look forward to the day when, once again, February 22 is marked by patriotic festivities and lessons about George Washington which can teach and inspire American leaders of today and tomorrow.

As our nation's foremost founding father, Washington is relevant to each new generation because his prominent character traits—undaunted courage, unabashed patriotism, reasoned judgment, a profound sense of civic responsibility, and a deep, selfless commitment to country—never go out of style. Educating the children of America about the life and leadership of George Washington is an important investment in the future of our nation.

Your efforts are particularly important because as noted author and keynote speaker at our Library's opening ceremonies David McCullough has said many times, we are "raising a generation of historically illiterate children." Surveys and focus groups validate this problem and show that most Americans recognize the face of Washington on their dollar bills, but they don't know much about him. This is a real cause for concern about the future of our nation. It is our duty and privilege to teach today's young people about George Washington's leadership with the hope that they will follow in his footsteps. Enactment of your legislation would go a long way toward emphasizing the importance of remembering the Father of Our Country.

We are inspired in countless ways by George Washington's example as the indispensable man. He served as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army through the eight long years of the War of Independence. The people then showed their overwhelming

support for him as he was unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention and to two terms as our new nation's first president. As you know, the unanimous election of a President of the United States has never occurred since.

A true celebration of Washington's birthday would encourage Americans to reflect on the distinguishing qualities of his leadership. For example, Washington was willing to sacrifice the life he loved at Mount Vernon time and time again when he was called to serve his country. Perhaps more than anyone in American history, he understood and valued patriotic duty.

Another admirable trait was his willingness to give up power. In a time when great leaders were marked by their ability to gain and keep as much power as possible, George Washington willingly stepped down as the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army as well as after his second term as president. He could have been elected again and again, but his peaceful transition of power demonstrated that democracy really worked and established a new definition of power. He truly believed in the concept of liberty where the power rested with the people. What an important lesson even for the leaders of today!

The celebration of George Washington's Birthday on February 22 will help return the Father of Our Country to his position as "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen," as Light-Horse Harry Lee said so many years ago. George Washington's sterling example of character and leadership provides the opportunity to refresh and inspire our country as we face formidable challenges both at home and abroad.

Thank you again for your efforts in introducing H.R. 681. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association stands behind you in this patriotic pursuit.

Sincerely,

CURTIS G. VIEBRANZ,
President.

My legislation is not without precedent. In 1975, Congress amended the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation into law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in November to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day as a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

There is a reason the birthday of President George Washington is the only legal federal holiday observed for a president of the United States. He is called the "father of our country" because he is without compare in our nation's history. Washington's Birthday has been celebrated since the final days of the Revolutionary War. French and American troops paraded through Newport, Rhode Island, in 1781 and celebrations were held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1782. Organized by French General Rochambeau and others who knew him personally, these celebrations drew special attention to the bravery, courage, leadership and perseverance of the Revolutionary War hero. From the beginning of our country, the importance of this day has been recognized. As President James Buchanan said in 1860, "... when the birthday of Washington shall be forgotten, liberty will have perished from

the earth." In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington's Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

Sadly, the celebration of President Washington's unparalleled role in American history has been lost and I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. It is time to change the focus of the holiday from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington's birth and the birth of our nation. I urge the House to take up this bill and pass it.

**RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF
DEMETRIS A. SAMPSON**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. DeMetris Sampson as she retires after 25 years of illustrious service from the Dallas-based law firm, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Ms. Sampson was the first African-American woman named as partner at the firm, and she epitomizes the characteristics of a true servant-leader. It is often said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others. I dare to say that DeMetris has found herself twice over.

DeMetris Sampson has provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. She has displayed a constant commitment to serving those whose life she has impacted through varied activities—from serving as president of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys. She has been involved extensively with programs, such as Emerging Young Leaders and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

DeMetris Sampson is not only a leader; she is a person of incredible intellect who possesses the ability to build alliances with people and groups from diverse backgrounds and varying interests. She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Trinity Chapter of Links, Inc. No matter the organization or affiliation, integrity has always been the central element of Ms. Sampson's work. She can always be counted on to do what is right. She is a champion of justice and offers a resounding voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ms. Sampson has received numerous awards for her dedicated service, including the 2012 Legacy of Service Foundation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of DeMetris A. Sampson. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the City of Dallas for years to come. I want to extend a personal thank you, and a thank you on behalf of the wonderful people of the great City of Dallas. Thank you DeMetris for your outstanding example. As you retire, you deserve to reflect

upon your career with great pride in a job well done. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Sampson for her outstanding professional achievement and dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PITTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Pitts, who passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2014. As one of the key researchers in understanding the dangers and repercussions of air pollution, his contribution to the state of California, and the world, will not be forgotten. James will be truly missed, as a dynamic and passionate advocate, educator, mentor and friend.

Six months after James was born in Salt Lake City on January 10, 1921 to Ester and James N. Pitts, the family moved to Los Angeles. It was not until James' studies in high school at Manual Arts High School that he found his passion for chemistry. He took this enthusiasm for science to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he graduated with a bachelor's in chemistry in 1945 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1949. Following his graduation, James' passion for teaching began to take shape. In 1954, James began as a founding professor at the University of California, Riverside, focusing his research on fundamental photochemistry. James led the efforts to establish the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at the University of California, Riverside and served successfully as its director for eighteen years.

James began his air pollution research in the 1950s during a time when the nature and dangers of smog were still unknown. Through James' findings, he was able to influence groundbreaking Southern California air policy and clean air regulations that drastically improved the state's environmental health, and the health of California residents. The research carried out by his team provided much of the scientific basis of California's forward-thinking policies and regulations which have been widely adopted both nationally and internationally. Throughout his tenure, James also managed to find time to co-author nearly four hundred scientific works, and became such an authority in the scientific world that he was constantly visited by scientists, politicians and international leaders from around the globe. His extensive work in this field earned him numerous accolades from the United States Congress, the California State Assembly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State Air Resources Board, and the Coalition for Clean Air.

James Pitts was an energetic advocate who made a true difference in the state of California and through his efforts, he ultimately impacted the world for the better. As an educator at both University of California, Riverside and University of California, Irvine, his enthusiasm for chemistry was contagious. James instilled many of his students with an unrelenting desire to improve the environment and prepared these future generations of scientists to better the world for many years to come.

James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions

to the community, and love of family. James will also be remembered for his love of the outdoors. James took advantage of everything the environment had to offer, which was clearly reflected in his life's work. James is survived by his second wife, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts and his three daughters from a previous marriage, Linda Lee, Christie Hoffman, and Beckie St. George as well as his former wife, Nancy, six grandchildren and their families. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS authority to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts to their employees. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs. The sequester and other budgetary pressures are a factor in the need to offer employees who are eligible for retirement the incentive to retire. The D.C. Courts and PDS would like the flexibility to extend such offers to their employees. In particular, many of the jobs that the D.C. Courts are trying to fill require specialized skill sets and buyout authority would help to make the administration and operations of the court more effective and efficient.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has held that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to provide these types of payments to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**MARYLAND 6TH DISTRICT COUNTY
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the following Teachers

for being named Teacher of the Year in their counties, each of which is in Maryland's Sixth District:

Mrs. Dana Reinhardt: Teacher of the Year Allegany County Public Schools, 3rd Grade, George's Creek Elementary School.

Ms. Erin Doolittle: Teacher of the Year Frederick County Public Schools, Pre-K, Hillcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Ryan Wolf: Teacher of the Year Garrett County Public Schools, Math, Southern Garrett High School.

Mrs. Jane Lindsay: Teacher of the Year Montgomery County Public Schools, 8th

Grade Reading and English, John Poole Middle School.

Mrs. Courtney Leard: Teacher of the Year Washington County Public Schools, 2nd Grade, Fountaindale Elementary School.

There are few callings more important to society than teaching, and these teachers have shown extraordinary skill, commitment, and ingenuity in the classroom. Dana Reinhardt, Erin Doolittle, Ryan Wolf, Jane Lindsay, and Courtney Leard have made a difference for their students and made their communities stronger. Their example is a reminder of the great

work done by teachers across Maryland and around the country. Every child in America deserves teachers like this and schools that position them to succeed as adults.

It was my sincere honor to meet with them in the U.S. Capitol and hear their perspective on the major issues in education today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these Teachers of the Year for their tremendous achievement.